NCEM Emergency Preparedness
Programs & Key Resources

Review of Emergency Preparedness in NC
Prepared for:
The Joint Legislative Emergency Management Oversight Committee
10/12/2017
NCEM Mission

• Prepare for:  
• Respond to:  
• Recover from:

All Threats or Hazards whether Natural, Technological, or Civil
State Emergency Response Team (SERT)
State Emergency Response Team (SERT)

• NCGS 166A defines the SERT as:
  • “the representative group of State agency personnel designated to carry out the emergency management support functions identified in the North Carolina Emergency Operations Plan”

• In practice, the SERT includes a task-organized group of state, local and federal government personnel, volunteers and non-profits, and representatives from the private sector that come together to prepare for, respond to, and support recovery from disasters.
SERT & the All-Hazards Approach

- Hurricanes
- Winter Storms
- Tornadoes
- Floods
- Hazardous Material Spills
- Forest Fires
- Earthquake
- Transportation Accidents
- Water System Failures
- Civil Disturbance

- Drought
- Pandemic Flu
- Nuclear/Chemical/Biological Attack
- Fuel Shortage
- Active Shooter/Coordinated Mass Violence
- Infrastructure/System Failures
- Nuclear Power Plant Issue
- Airplane Crash
- Animal Disease
- Food Contamination
SERT Partners (State Agencies)

- NCDPS (Lead Agency) – NCEM, Corrections, SHP, NCNG, ALE, SBI
- Administration – Purchase & Contract, Facility Mgmt.
- Insurance – Fire Marshal’s Office, Building Inspections
- Labor – OSHA
- Agriculture – Food Safety, Animal Protection, Forestry, Crop Damage & Insurance
- Transportation – Debris Clearance, Road /Bridge Repair, Snow & Ice Removal, Hwy. Mgmt.
- Public Instruction – School Safety, School Buses
- Commerce – Economic Development, Retail Merchant’s Association
- Health & Human Services – Public Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services, Mental Health, Social Services (Shelters), Radiation Protection
- Environmental Quality – Air and Water Quality, Public Water Supply, Dam Safety, Landslides
- Cultural Resources – Historic Sites, Museums
- NCSU – Coop. Extension – Agriculture Advice, Support to Disaster Impacted Communities
SERT Partners (Volunteers and Nonprofits)

- American Red Cross
- Salvation Army
- Amateur Radio
- Telephone Pioneers
- Food Banks
- Hearts with Hands
- State Bar
- United Way (NC-211)

- Lutheran Disaster Response
- Mennonite Disaster Services
- Catholic Social Ministries
- N.C. Baptist Men
- Adventist Disaster Response
- Volunteer Administrators
- ....and many others
SERT Partners (Business EOC)

- NCEM recognized the value in incorporating the private sector in emergency response planning and operations
- National leader – first operationalized BEOC (Hurricane Matthew)
- Now over 300 partners are represented
SERT Organization & Goals

- Serve as central coordinating entity for State agencies and partners
- Maintain overall situational awareness statewide
- Receive, validate, and fill resource request from Counties and RCCs
- Coordinate with Federal agencies and other states
- Organized in Functional Support Groups
  - Emergency Services
  - Human Services
  - Infrastructure
  - Planning
  - Logistics
  - Risk Management
SERT Concept of Operations

• All disasters start & end locally
• Events are managed at the closest possible geographical, organizational and jurisdictional level

➢ When an effective response exceeds the capabilities of an agency’s internal resources, mutual aid is required.

➢ When response requirements exceed internal capabilities and normal mutual aid, regional coordination is required.

➢ When response requirements exceed capabilities with regional coordination, activation of the SERT & the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) is required.
• Counties submit resource requests in WebEOC
• RCCs validate and (if possible) source requests
• If RCCs cannot source the requests, they are pushed to the State EOC for action
• State EOC maintains a 30 minute requirement for action on county resource requests
State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC)

- Co-located with:
  - NCNG Joint Force Headquarters
  - NCSHP Troop C Communications Center
  - NCDOT Statewide Operations Center (STOC)
- During routine operations approximately 75 people work in the SEOC
- During activations that number can grow to over 300 including representatives from dozens of agencies
Regional Coordination Centers (RCCs)

- Three locations serving Western, Central, and Eastern NC
- Coordinates county-to-county mutual aid and deploys branch resources
- Validate and track county resource requests
- Provide direct support to county EOCs
Key Resources
Search and Rescue Program (NCSAR)

• Five programs with one mission - Leave no one behind
  • Alpine (5 teams)
  • Helo-Aquatic (9 platforms)
  • Swiftwater (27 agencies represented)
  • Urban / Structural Collapse (5 teams)
  • Wilderness

• Major responses:
  • H. Matthew (2,336 Rescues, incl. 90 by HART)
  • TS Julia (138 Rescues)
  • H. Francis/Ivan (1,550 Rescues)
Search and Rescue Program (NCSAR)

- Teams are located strategically around the state
- Ready to deploy on local, state or EMAC missions
- Scalable, Modular, Interoperable
- Cost-efficient local/state partnership
Regional Response Teams for Hazardous Materials (NCRRT)

• Seven teams located strategically around the state
• Cost-efficient partnership between State and municipal Fire Departments
• Provides offensive HazMat response capability for rural counties
• FY17 Missions:
  • 40 State & >700 Local
Regional Response Teams for Hazardous Materials (NCRRT)

- Fully trained and equipped technician-level Hazardous Materials response capability
- Ready for local or state missions
- Mission areas:
  - Chemical/substance identification
  - Air monitoring (area monitoring)
  - Biological agent detection
  - Radiological monitoring
  - Release control and mitigation
  - Decontamination
North Carolina National Guard (NCNG)

• Combat & combat support units are reconfigured into packages for specific disaster missions
• Predetermined costs
• Modular and scalable
• Plug & play with state & local responders
• EMAC-Ready
North Carolina National Guard (NCNG)

• Force packages ready to support:
  • Command and Control (C2)
  • Communications
  • Aviation
  • Logistics
  • Security
  • CBRNE/WMD
  • Medical (include aeromedical evacuation)
  • Engineering
  • Transportation
  • Power generation
  • And more...
Department of Transportation (NCDOT)

- Operates and maintains primary statewide transportation network
- Maintains situational awareness of conditions impacting road, rail, and ferry transportation infrastructure
- Key SERT partner for evacuations and access control
- Supports public information system
  - Overhead message boards
  - 511 system
- Provides logistical support
  - Message boards
  - Barricades
State Law Enforcement

• Key partners: NC State Highway Patrol, DOT License & Theft, State Parks, Wildlife Resource Commission

• Common missions:
  • Augment local law enforcement response (if requested)
  • Traffic control
  • Evacuation support
  • Shelter security
  • Route clearance
  • Re-entry control
  • Marine patrol
State Medical Assistance Teams (SMAT)

- Mobile Field Hospitals
  - 8-50 bed units
  - Can combine to form a 400 bed hospital

- National MDH
  - 21 bed Emergency Department
  - 12 bed Intensive Care Unit
  - 3 Operating Suites (1 with Imaging)
  - 6 bed Pre-care/Post Anesthesia Care Unit
State Medical Assistance Teams (SMAT)

• Additional resources strategically located around the state

• SMAT Trailers (27)
  • Decontamination
  • Medical Support
  • Rehabilitation

• Medical Buses (12)
  • Mass Casualty Incidents
  • Evacuations
All-Hazard Incident Management Teams

- Combination of State and Local personnel
- Type 3 Incident Management Teams
- EOC Overhead Teams
- State and National Deployments
  - H. Matthew (NC/SC)
  - 2016 WNC Fires (NC)
  - TS Joaquin (SC)
  - H. Irma (FL)
  - H. Harvey (TX)
  - H. Maria (PR)
  - H. Katrina (LA)
Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders (VIPER)

- Statewide 800 MHz mission critical communications platform
  - 228 towers provide backbone for interoperable communications statewide
  - 97,747 VIPER users
  - Primary communications platform for 39 counties, at least another 5 counties transitioning in 2017
    - 30 State and 18 Federal Agencies
    - Air, Boat, and Ground resources all use VIPER
Risk Management

- Floodplain Mapping
- Damage Modeling (wind/flooding)
- GIS Specialists
- IT Support
- Unmanned Aerial Systems Support
- Graphics Development
Emergency Management Warehouses

• Two warehouses
  • Strategically located
  • Primary commodities
    • Food (MREs) & Water
    • Tarps
    • Shelter Supplies

• NCEM Transportation Resources
  • Tractor-trailer (1)
  • F-550 Stake bed (1)
Local Emergency Management

• Local Emergency Management Coordinators are a key resource
  • Can be deployed to support counties and Regional Coordination Centers around the state
  • Some LEMCs are deployable via EMAC
  • Many possess specialized skillsets (ICS, SAR, K-9, Communications, etc.)
  • Prime Movers for Domestic Preparedness Region (DPR) resources
Statewide Mutual Aid Agreements

- Managed by NCEM Logistics
- As of 10/10/17:
  - 494 reciprocal agreements on record between NC Counties & Municipalities
  - 97 counties have active statewide mutual aid agreements
- Allows local government resources to deploy around the state
  - Addresses liability, control, coordination, and financial cost recovery
NC Mutual Aid at Work (Party Rock Fire)

NCEM/OSFM Coordinated Support to NCFS from these counties:

- Alamance – 5
- Anson – 1
- Beaufort – 4
- Bladen – 5
- Brunswick – 1
- Buncombe – 23
- Cabarrus – 4
- Carteret – 1
- Caswell – 2
- Chatham – 1
- Cherokee, SC – 1
- Cleveland – 4
- Craven – 1
- Cumberland – 5
- Currituck - 3
- Davidson - 4
- Davie - 2
- Durham - 3
- Edgecombe - 1
- Forsyth - 7
- Gaston - 1
- Gates - 1
- Granville - 1
- Guilford - 8
- Halifax - 1
- Henderson - 17
- Hertford - 1
- Hoke - 2
- Iredell - 7
- Lee - 2
- Lenoir – 1
- Lincoln - 1
- McDowell - 3
- Mecklenburg - 4
- Mitchell - 3
- Moore - 5
- Nash - 1
- New Hanover - 5
- Onslow - 6
- Orange - 5
- Pamlico - 1
- Pitt - 5
- Polk - 4
- Randolph – 5
- Robeson – 4
- Rockingham - 1
- Rowan - 2
- Rutherford – 30
- Stanly – 3
- Surry - 1
- Union – 2
- Wake - 15
- Wayne – 1
- Wilson – 1
- Yadkin – 2

55 COUNTIES VOLUNTEERED ASSISTANCE IN RESPONDING TO THIS FIRE EVENT
Domestic Preparedness Region (DPR) Resources

• Purchased using Homeland Security Grant Program funds (100% Federal)
• Hosted by counties
• Available for local use and statewide deployment
• Projects are subject to multi-level review
• Regionalized for efficiency
• Target identified capability gaps
DPR Resources
Trends impacting Emergency Preparedness
Demographics & Geography

• NC is the 9th most populous state, and one of the fastest growing
  • 10+ million people (over 1M growth in past decade)

• Growth trends strongly towards urban areas
  • Many rural counties experiencing or expect stagnant or declining population
  • Aging and declining population trends present challenges for local public safety agencies, and may compound existing challenges during disaster response operations

• Rapid growth presents challenges and opportunities
  • Growth in hazard areas
  • Infrastructure build-out lagging population
  • Managing incompatible land uses
Declining Federal Preparedness Grant Funds

• NC has been successful in the past by leveraging federal grant funding to build regional capabilities
  • Federal grants passed through to local governments
  • Resources are purchased under grants and maintained by local governments
  • Allows for resources to be surged across state during disasters
  • Grows North Carolina’s resiliency, less reliant on federal resources
  • More responsive to needs, because resources are distributed statewide
  • Capabilities purchased and/or maintained with federal grant funds have saved NC lives

• There has been a general decline in federal grant opportunities since 2007
  • NCEM is actively looking for ways to maximize remaining opportunities and identify new opportunities to maintain existing capabilities
Community Expectations of Public Safety Services

• Communication
  • Increased demand for just-in-time information
  • Necessity of social media engagement (day-to-day and during events)

• Expectation of immediate response following major disasters
  • Lean local government budgets drive many public safety agencies to closely match capacity with “normal” demand, and rely on mutual aid for unusual peaks
    • Limited surge capacity, especially for region or statewide events
  • Delta between available resources and heightened demand for service during major events
  • Normalcy bias: belief things will always function the way they normally function

• Challenge of cultivating a culture of preparedness
  • ReadyNC Campaign
  • Family kits (aka “The First 72 Are On You”)
Concluding Remarks and Questions

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